



**NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY
ASSISTANCE**

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Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	08-INF-17
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office :	Center for Employment and Economic Supports (CEES)
Date:	October 23, 2008
Subject:	Temporary Assistance: Financial Institution Resource Clearance
Suggested Distribution:	Temporary Assistance Directors Food Stamp Benefits Directors Medicaid Directors Finance Directors Fraud Directors CAP Coordinators Employment Coordinators Staff Development Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	Temporary Assistance Policy Questions: Greg Nolan at 1-800-343-8859, ext. 4-9101
Attachments:	none
Attachment Available On – Line:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
05 ADM-6 91 INF-15		351.1 351.2 352.23	SSL 144-a		GIS 05 TA DC/023

Section 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter (INF) is to clarify that local departments of social services have statutory and regulatory authority to verify resource information from financial institutions **(including inter-state financial institutions)** of applicant/recipient (A/R) eligibility for Temporary Assistance (TA).

II. Background

Beginning in November 2004, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) began the statewide roll-out of the Financial Institution Recipient Match (FIRM) system. FIRM is a State developed financial institution computer match for use in assessing Medicaid and TA eligibility of clients. The FIRM roll-out was completed in August 2005.

Solely for purposes of the FIRM process, a distinction was made in 05 ADM-06, *Temporary Assistance (TA) and Medicaid (MA) Financial Institution Recipient Match (FIRM): Implications for TA, MA and Food Stamps (FS)*, that was released to coincide with FIRM start-up of the difference between financial institutions operating in more than one state and those operating within New York State. The FIRM match is made only against financial institutions operating within New York State.

Some districts have inquired whether this distinction or the FIRM process was intended to limit a district or the State's ability to otherwise verify resource information from financial institutions operating in more than one state. The answer to this question is "no".

III. Program Implications

Districts have statutory and regulatory authority to verify resource information from financial institutions of A/Rs for TA eligibility purposes. A form (LDSS-760) exists for manually clearing TA A/Rs within individual banks. In addition, nothing precludes districts from establishing their own automated match process with financial institutions not included in the FIRM process. (Please see 91 INF-15 for instructions on use of the LDSS-760)

Issued By

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